

CPYRGHT

Letters to the Editor

Cuban Ransom

Mr. The Maritime Trades Department of the AFL-CIO played a leading role in the dramatic and successful effort to rescue the 1,113 Bay of Pigs prisoners from Cuba.

In response to requests from high officials of the United States Government and officials of the Red Cross the Maritime Trades Department coordinated efforts of its affiliated unions to see that baby food and medical supplies were loaded on ships as part of the ransom payment demanded by Fidel Castro.

Unions affiliated with the department pledged contributions to cover the cost of ship loading. The International Longshoremen's Association agreed to a waiver of overtime payments and worked around the clock. The Seafarers International Union, Atlantic and Gulf District, alone contributed \$15,000 for part of the labor costs, the remaining amount pledged by other affiliates.

The services rendered by the Maritime Trades Department and its affiliates were recognized and praised by the Secretary of Labor, W. Willard Wirtz, for the splendid cooperation received on the Cuban prisoner exchange.

Itex E. Dickey,
Port Agent, Seafarers International Union.

Warren R. Leader,
Executive Secretary, Baltimore
Port Council, Maritime Trades
Department.
Baltimore, Feb. 7.